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CAN THE DEAD SPEAK TO THE LIVING?

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Light on Death and the Hereafter.

By EMIL CLIFFORD HARTMANN

1. There is a growing search and an increasing desire to know what really lies beyond the grave and to be able to penetrate the veil which separates this world from the hereafter. It is a direct result of the great World War, and of the fact that so many homes were stripped of their loved ones during the influenza epidemic. We find the growing search for the knowledge of what lies beyond the grave, bringing to light many hidden facts concerning the hereafter. Aristotle has declared that much light flashes on a subject which one contemplates much. Those who have been bereft of their loved ones cannot help but question, "Where is he? I wonder just what death is? Is there life after death? When a person dies, does he live again? Can he see me? Will I ever see him again? If I only knew, how happy I would be!"

2. Everybody is truly desirous of knowing just exactly what the hereafter is, and it is right and just. There are some who will say, "What do I care about the hereafter? Just one world at a time, please. All that I am concerned about is the here. I do not know whether there is a hereafter, and I do not care to know." Many of the modern thinkers ridicule the idea of trying to know what lies beyond the grave. This is due to ignorance and narrow-mindedness. The Great Goal which every true and faithful Christian should have his vision set upon, is the demonstration of immortality in the flesh and of the flesh. There is no need of anyone dying. "See, I have set before you life and death. Choose life, for what pleasure have I in the death of them that dieth?" saith the Lord. Eternal Life is the big teaching of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, if anyone should fail to demonstrate over death, it is wisdom for him to know where he shall go when he passes on and what it is all like. That is the reason why the writer has given this subject such a thorough investigation and feels himself capable of writing upon the subject.

3. It is a universal subject, being discussed in all countries. Wherever the appearance of death has laid hold of one, those who have been left behind are desirous of knowing where their loved one has gone, as well as of hearing his voice. "If I only knew I would see him again some day I could bear it so much easier," is the cry of so many hearts. The garment of flesh which has been laid aside is not your loved one, and in no way is that shell related to him; it is merely the physical dress which he wore while upon this physical plane; the one who has passed on is a soul, a mind—living in a psychical body. You are deceived and cause yourself much useless sorrow every time you think of your beloved as dead. The shell, or physical body, is apparently dead; the beloved is not a body, but is soul and mind. He occupied a physical body in order to manifest among the sons of men who are in the flesh. Know that your beloved is living in the Omnipresence of His Holy Love.

4. Such minds as Sir Oliver Lodge, Conan Doyle and Basil King have, through their untiring efforts, helped to remove many of the charges of fakery from the subject. There are many "fakers" dealing with the subject, working on the sympathies of those who are mourning and searching for a message from the departed. If men and women knew the Truth about death and the hereafter, they would not be seeking "fortune-tellers," "trance-mediums" and those who work along those commercial lines, trying to get a message from the other side of life. If your loved one has a message for you and the conditions are harmonious, he will get it across to you in an independent way, as you will find later on in this article.

5. Once death was the terror of man. He feared and dreaded the idea that some day he would face death. Many of the churches have held the ghastly idea of death before the minds of their people, thinking that the fear of some day dying, would cause them to live a better life here and now. When we know the God of Love and Truth, then all fear is put away. "Perfect Love casteth out all fear."

6. Why does man fear death? Job says that the very thing a man fears he is bound to get. Scientifically speaking, it is not wise to fear a thing, since through the fear of that thing you are liable to attract it to yourself. Man is a mental magnet and attracts to himself everything that harmonizes with his thought. Man fears death because he is ignorant of what lies beyond the grave. The Egyptians taught death with its attendant forty-seven judges, before whom every soul would have to pass for examination. If they were trained in the Mysteries of the Order of Osiris and were able to answer, "I am an Osiris, I have never sinned, etc.," they would pass him by claiming that he knew and understood. The Christians would call it, "Saved by the Blood of the Lamb." Osiris is to the Egyptians what Jesus

Christ is to the Christians. In the Egyptian Book of the Dead one can find some very interesting facts about death.

7. The Greeks taught death to be a twilight of the gods, where all the great minds would assemble and discuss the great teachings. The Greeks of old were always seeking knowledge. The Christians have always taught a heaven, a hell and a purgatory. Those who are good, they claim go to heaven; the bad go to hell and those who are half way between go to purgatory. Such beliefs do not harmonize with the God of Omnipotent and Omnipresent Love. David tells us in the 139th Psalm that, "Though I make my bed in hell, there Thou art." God is Omnipresent. If there is a hell it must be in his Omnipresence. Many believe that when a man is dead, he is dead; while others believe that the dead are asleep in their graves awaiting a future resurrection, when all the graves shall open and their dead shall come forth. In the great resurrecting thought of Absolute Truth the grave of mortal self shall open and yield forth the glorious Free Spirit of man, is what the Scriptures truly mean. As long as man is ignorant concerning death, he is going to be afraid of it and will misunderstand all its attendant phenomena.

8. Before going any further with this subject of, "Can the Dead Speak to the Living?" let us realize first of all, "There is no death." The writer, often in his lectures, declares that there are more people dead walking around on the earth, than who have passed on. Many people act as if there is no life in them. They need the Absolute Truth of Jesus Christ to waken them up. "I am come that ye might have life and that ye might have it more abundantly." There is no death in the sense that one ceases to be; that is, that he is dead and gone forever. Life, Truth teaches us, has no beginning and no end. All beginnings and ends are but suppositions. Life is Omnipresent. In the great Ocean of Unlimited, Undying and Changeless Life, we all live, move and have our being. Longfellow, in his immortal poem, "The Psalm of Life," tells us:

"Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal.
'Dust, thou art, to dust returneth,'
Was not spoken of thy soul."

9. Man, being a three-fold being, will find himself functioning on one of the three planes of consciousness. He cannot finish with one plane until he has manifested mastery over that plane. Those who die and pass on and have not finished their work here, are bound to come back to earth again and finish the work which they left undone. (The writer's booklet on, "Reincarnation, in the Light of Jesus Christ," explains that subject.) Man is Spirit, soul and body. He functions on either the physical, material, earth plane, or the psychical, astral or etherial plane. He cannot enter the realm or kingdom of Pure Spirit, the Kingdom of God, until he has demonstrated himself the Son of God. "I am the door, through Me, if any man shall enter, he shall go in and out and find pasture." Jesus Christ never taught Heaven after death, claiming that through death one would enter into it. If one could enter into Heaven through death, then why would the Scriptures teach us, "Death is the wages of sin"? How can the "wages of sin" usher one into Heaven? Can you find anywhere in the teachings of Jesus Christ the authority for the teaching of a three dimensional heaven?

10. "Ye shall do the things that I have done and even greater." Jesus demonstrated over death and entered into the Ascension, taking his physical or human body along with Him. He declares that every true believer is to do likewise. Do you believe it to be possible? All things are possible to them that believe. There is no use looking around and saying, "Has anyone ever done it?" Jesus Christ declares that you can do it. The command would never have been given were it not possible to fulfill it. Seek the Kingdom of God and let the mind of Jesus Christ think, reason and speak into and through you, and you will demonstrate. "If any man will believe into Me, (the Jesus Christ Free Spirit Self in him) he shall never taste of death." In the Omnipresence of Life, there can be no death for the one who holds fast, being well grounded in the underlying principles of True Christianity.

11. Life is an infinite circle, whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere. Life is. It always was, it is now and evermore shall be, life without end. Life is always in the present tense. Jesus Christ never was, Jesus Christ is now. "Before Abraham was I AM." It is for everyone to demonstrate the Abundant Life of the Spirit, which is without beginning of days and without end of years. There is no reason why anyone should "pass on" under the belief of death. Death is not God-ordained. It is not His Will. "Thy Will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven." Is it God's Will in Heaven that anyone should die? Then is it His Will that anyone should die on earth? Men and women die because they forget to lay hold upon the Most High. They believe their home to be hereafter instead of the here. The Omnipresence of Life means the nowhere presence of death, and everyone should stand fast to that acknowledgment of Absolute Truth. "Death is the wages of sin." Sin is ignorance. Truth frees one from ignorance, therefore it frees one from death, but man must hold fast and live the Truth and bring his life up to its fullness. Do not accept a part of the Truth, accept the whole Truth, for it is the whole Absolute Truth of Jesus Christ that shall set you absolutely free.

12. A Truth student, who had been in the knowledge of spiritual things for some twenty

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years, running around after "teachers" with their varied ideas and never finding the True Teacher, Jesus Christ, who says, "Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart," came to the writer one day and told of her terrible fear of death. She was battling with the fear thought of death and the more she fought the more apparent death would seem to her. She feared to sleep, lest she should die while asleep. She realized that she, through the concentrated power of her own thought, was setting into operation a law which would bring death to her body. Man is a law unto himself. Through his silent and audible words he establishes himself in the law that "as a man soweth (in thought, word, feeling and action) so shall he reap outwardlly." "Like attracts like." The writer said to her: "Whether you live or whether you die, remember always that you are living, moving and having your being in the great Love Presence of Jesus Christ, the Omnipresent and Omnipotent One. 'Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I shall fear no evil, for THOU art with me.' 'Lo, I am with you always.' Do not resist death. Just know there is no death, all is life." Her fears were dissolved and she lived at the relaxed place, where one is able to be pulled from the laws of gravitation and find the laws of levitation lifting them up, that "where I am there ye may be also." "Look unto Me all the ends of the earth and be ye saved (from death) for I AM and there is none else."

13. Every Christian must learn the art of relaxation. Relax yourself mentally and physically and you will find yourself being filled with more life, health and strength. Holding on to false memories, to worries, fears and errors of various kinds and descriptions, has a tendency to deaden the body. Many a drowning person, who is fighting and struggling trying to save himself, has been known to pull a life-saver under with him. A life-saver many times finds it necessary to give the one he is trying to rescue a blow on the forehead, in order to knock him unconscious, thus relaxing him and making it possible to save him. A drunken man, because of his unconsciousness, has been known to fall off of a building and not have a bone broken. A person who walks in his sleep and is about to fall off of a building, should never be awakened, for if he falls in an awakened state he is liable to break some of the bones in his body, whereas if he falls in the sleeping state, he is unhurt. Relaxation is one of the secrets of Eternal Youth.

14. One is never to court death, even though it seems to have its good points as well as its bad points. Nothing is gained through death. Everything is to be gained through demonstrating over death. Many pray for death, believing it to be the way out of their troubles and sorrows. The body, or this earth plane, is not the cause of one's sorrows. The mind is the seat of all causation. One is the same after death as before death. Death is the lazy man's way of trying to get out of a problem. "The last enemy to be overcome is death." Are you going to let that enemy overcome you, or are you going to overcome that enemy? "If any man will keep my sayings he shall never taste of death. This is Life Eternal that they might know Thee, the only True God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent (into the soul of man." "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth into Him should never perish (die) but have everlasting Life."

15. Many wish that they could die so that they could have rest. "In Adam (the old man) we all die, but in Jesus Christ we are all made alive." Those who are living in the old thought—which thought is not the Truth of Jesus Christ—find themselves laboring by the sweat of their brow. "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I shall give you rest." If you cannot find rest here, how are you going to find it hereafter, when you are the same entity hereafter, with the same mind and thoughts as you had while here? Man is mind and in his mind he always lives, until he finds the Free Spirit Self in himself; this Self wipes out the past and establishes him in the Kingdom of God.

16. Death seems to free one from struggle, sickness, disease and pain, yet we realize in Truth that such freedom is not permanent; because its foundation is not in Truth, but in error. One must build his foundation upon the Rock of Ages, which abides forever. If every soul would but accept the Vicarious Offer of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin, sickness, sorrow and fruits of sin from those who are in error, and make His soul an offering for sin, he would demonstrate right here and now, the "power over the enemy." God has given man dominion over all things, even death. Dominate death and do not let it dominate you. The scientific men of the day are beginning to realize that death must be overcome. Many are calling it a curable disease. It is possible to transform, rejuvenate and renew the body here and now. "I shall not die, but live and declare the works of God." Is it God's work that man shall die? Is it His Will? Death is missing the mark of the high calling of Jesus Christ. It is dropping one's vision from the heights and placing it upon the depths.

17. The realization, as well as the proof, has come that not even the body dies, for it simply decomposes and returns to its native elements, whether the body is placed under the ground, cremated or buried at sea. The body, in the stillness of death, is in a state of unthinkable vibration. There is no such thing as "dead matter." Life permeates everything. Jesus knew that it was possible to take the life in the stones and turn it into bread.

"Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, good in everything."—Shakespeare.

It is a fact that new life forms start working in the body after it has started to decompose.

Many have odd ideas of just how the body should be disposed of. It makes no difference, for the body is of no further value to the soul. The silver-cord which unites the soul to the body, when once broken brings death. The method of burial does not affect the soul one way or the other, although it is the writer's honest opinion that cremation is far the best method, because disposing of the body in that way is best not only from the standpoint of sanitation, but it frees the soul from all physical bondage and attachment to the old body which it dropped.

18. One is the same after death as before death. Death has not changed the soul at all. From it has been stripped the physical garment of flesh, in which it was to demonstrate the beauty of God, Perfection. Job said, "Yet in my flesh I shall see God." "Glorify God in your body. I shall not be unclothed but clothed upon." "Know ye not that ye are the temple of the living God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth therein?" Find God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son within yourself and you will have found the True Secret by which Eternal Youth can be demonstrated right here and now.

19. The writer often likens humanity to an onion; it has many layers, as man has many bodies. Stripping an onion of one layer does not render the onion less than an onion. When the soul has stripped itself of one body it does not make man less than a man. The objective, or physical body, when laid aside leaves the soul to function wholly in its subjective, or psychical body. The soul, or man, has unclothed itself, yet Paul says, "I groan in the flesh, not to be unclothed (that is to drop the physical body) but to be clothed upon (with the body of the Lord which God has prepared for each of us, the body in Heaven awaiting the manifestation of everyone)." "For this cause many are sickly, weak and die among you, not discerning the Lord's body."

20. The Wisdom and Knowledge of Jesus Christ gives us the assurance of continued, everlasting life. Jesus spoke so much upon that subject. His truth teaches us that there is a divine law of Love and Justice, that there is but One Source of Life and everything from the fungus to the archangel is a partaker of it or its shadow—the relative form of life. Life is endless and in the one great ocean of Unlimited Life, no one really dies. Did not the serpent tell Eve, "Ye shall not surely die."? Man passes under the appearance of death, yet man does not die. The serpent spoke the Truth. Yet it is not even necessary to go through the appearance of it. "Judge not according to appearances, but judge righteous judgment."

21. The appearance of death is the dropping of one form to function in another form. Man can never be without form, for man can never be without expression. Each new form is according to one's own state of consciousness. The new form looks very much like the old form which was dropped, unless one made a big demonstration in the change of his consciousness before dropping the one form to function in the other. The body, whether physical or psychical, is but the reproduction of the thoughts and the feelings of the ego. We have character analysists today. One's character can be read through the study of the features of the face and body—the face being the index to the consciousness, giving one an idea of what the consciousness contains. Yet it is not a positive guide, for one's character can change quicker than the body can record it, as the material seems to be very slow in its rate of vibration.

22. It is man's privilege, as well as his duty, to know all these things aright, and thus be released forever from all ignorance concerning the Immortality of Life. It is given unto each one to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, Life, Truth and Love. No one should ever be content with ignorance, though many claim that "Ignorance is bliss." It is the wrong kind of bliss. We want the bliss that is the ecstacy of Heaven, which comes through the application of the knowledge of Truth. Though we are taught to live in the NOW, we are to know that the NOW exists on all planes of manifestation. We are all to know what there is to be known about the future, yet we are to live and work in the Now, so that the future shall have the true coloring. Many of the "I-know-it-alls" claim that they do not know what takes place after death and because they do not know, they feel that no one else knows.

23. We are to seek all our knowledge direct from the Holy Spirit and not from the "spirits" or souls of the departed; for they know very little about the hereafter, the same as we know very little about the here, compard to what we are yet to know. There is only ONE who knows all things and that ONE is Jesus Christ within the soul of every human being; it is saying to every human being, "Learn of Me." When you seek knowledge you do not go to the "chela" (student) but rather you go to the "guru" (teacher). We are taught to go to the One Teacher, the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ, who has promised to teach us all things and bring all things to our remembrance.

24. It is only the study of Absolute Truth that gives us an absolute assurance of all things spiritual. The Spirt of Truth in man reveals unto him the deep things of God, in the degree that he seeks for its guidance and opens himself to its Spirit. The assurance of man's immortality must come from within; if it does not, then man is rather doubtful. Many who are interested in "spirits" are rather doubtful themselves about a man's immortality, for souls on other planes die to one plane in order to pass to another. "In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you." "Ye shall not need to die the second death." Even death on these planes, which are seven in number, can be overcome

through the application of the Truth of Jesus Christ. It is the Truth understood, used and lived that will give man the power to demonstrate over death and attain translation and ascension. "All things are possible to them that believe." Those who believe are fired with the Divine Character.

25. Learn to always look first of all to the One in you which knows and understands, from Whom nothing is hidden that it cannot be revealed. Seek its guidance and you will find that all else will be added unto you. Holy daily, "There is One in me which knows. It is the Omniscient One. I will seek its guidance. It reveals to me the hidden things of God. It teaches me all things. There is nothing hidden but what it reveals unto me." Then accept all outer witnesses to the degree that they confirm what has been revealed from within.

26. The existence of invisible souls in the various grades of unfoldment has never been denied by those who have "connected up" with "that something" in every soul which knows all things. Life is a great school and we find every soul, whether in the flesh or out of the flesh, learning in the various grades, the great truth about Life. Those who have unfolded their clairvoyant sight can see these souls, provided they are on the earth plane. Many souls are earth-bound, being held close to earth because of some problem which they left unfinished and which they are to finish before passing on to higher planes. Others are held earth-bound, due to the fact that those whom they left on earth are clinging to them, through sorrow and through grief. One little boy, who had passed on, came to his mother in a vision, carrying a lantern which kept going out all the time. His mother asked her little son why the light kept going out. He told her it was her tears that kept putting the light out. The mother ceased to grieve and saw the little one pass on to higher spheres. We know that Jesus appeared first to Mary Magadelen after the Resurrection and said unto her, "Be not clinging to Me, for I have not as yet ascended unto my Father and unto your Father," thus proving that even Mary, in her great grief and sorrow, was holding Jesus back from accomplishing the great work. He gives humanity an example of how grief holds one earth-bound. Grief will also cause one to bring about a waste of flesh, energy, vitality and supply. Socrates has declared that, "He who grieves much is a magnet to attract waste."

27 We should forgive all those who have passed on and send them only the highest, purest and most loving thoughts. There should be no grief or sorrow, rather "Rejoice because I said, 'I go unto my Father.'" Our love and our prayers must never be discontinued because someone has passed on that we love; but rather, over the wires of the true love thoughts and feelings, one's love, trust, cheer and prayers should travel. It is good to pray for those who have passed on. Our prayers are food for their souls. Instead of strewing flowers upon their graves, send them the flowers of God's richest thoughts and blessings, which help them on their life journey.

28. The presence of those who have passed on can be seen, heard and felt. The writer does not advise the developing of the psychic senses, among which is the clairvoyant sight; that is, the ability to see those who have passed on and are yet earth-bound, or who linger near the earth plane for various reasons. There is no healing gained from such seeing. It does not demonstrate for one what looking to Jesus Christ demonstrates. "Look unto Me all the ends of the earth and be ye saved for I AM and there is none else." Looking to Jesus Christ enabled Peter to walk the troubled waves of Galilee. As a rose must unfold from within, so must the psychic senses be unfolded by the Spirit of Jesus Christ within the soul of the devotee. Man's soul is the garden of the Lord in which He lives. He plucks out the errors and fills the soul with the Good, according to the degree in which man unites himself to the Lord Mighty to Save. One can spoil a rosebud thorugh forcing its unfoldment, so also many souls are being spoiled each day, as far as this incarnation is concerned, unless they take hold of the Absolute Truth of Jesus Christ, which will heal these psychic senses until it pleases the Higher Self of man to have them opened. There is no use trying to put the cart before the horse and there is no need of anyone trying to unfold their psychic senses before they have first of all found the God Self within. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God"; and as a direct result these senses shall be opened and you will be able to use them for the glory of God and not for the glory of self.

29. A mother who does not know the Absolute Truth about the children which the Lord has blessed her with, will be found watching over those children after she has passed on, the same as she did while in the flesh. After death she seems to be closer to them than before death, because in her psychical body she can go with them wherever they go. By doing this she remains earth-bound. If she would put her children in the charge of the Blessed Self which is within them, she would go on her way proving the great Truth of Life, thus relieving her of the sense of burden which she is allowing to hold her earth-bound. She has failed to cast her burden upon the Lord and go on her way rejoicing, breaking the last thread of attachment to the flesh. If the child is sensitive or negative enough, it can feel the mother's presence. Many are the instances where a child has felt the mother's presence and heard her voice.

30. A nurse, who studied Truth with the writer, told him of an experience she had had before coming into the knowledge of the Truth. Her mother was stricken with paralysis

which compelled her to remain in bed, so her daughter gave up her work to take care of the mother. The mother's room was above the kitchen; it was in the early summer months when the windows could be left open all day. The daughter knew very little about cooking and had to go to the kitchen window and call up to her mother, asking her how to prepare certain foods—she called up in order to save herself the trip up the stairs each time. It became a habit. In the late summer her mother passed on and through force of habit she would go to the window and start to call up, and then stop when she realized that her mother had gone, although she felt her mother's presence in the home all the time. She would stand still and think about mother and soon she would hear her mother's voice telling her just what to do. It continued for quite a while, and daily the daughter would sit by the window and ask her mother many questions, and the mother would try to answer them. It was not good for the mother to be held earth-bound in that way; neither was it good for the daughter to forget everything else and just sit there and communicate with the mother who had passed on. Each had her work to do, but neither was doing this work. The house burned and the communication ceased. "Where thy treasure is, there is thy heart also." Our heart and soul must never be given in Love to anything less than the Highest. The mother's treasure was her child and she wanted to be near her daughter all the time. The Cosmic Law sent them on their way. There is no error in feeling the mother's presence or in listening to her voice; the error lies in seeking her guidance rather than the guidance of the Omnipresent Jesus Christ, who tells us not to seek "familiar spirits," but rather seek the guidance of the Holy One, which One we are all to find within ourselves. Seek the counsel of the Most High and you will never be led astray. Only those who minister in the name of Jesus Christ, bearing the seal of the Lamb, should be allowed to counsel one.

31. Many have seen their departed and have conversed with them in visions and in their wakening hours. One New Thought teacher, who does not understand the fullness of Truth, instructs his followers that they must not pay any attention to visions and dreams. The Bible speaks very famorably of visions and dreams and much good has been accomplished through seeking their interpretation. One should never seek for that interpretation outside of himself, for "There is One in me which knows," should be his thought. Visions are beautiful and instructive, but we are not to make gods of them. It seems a pity that those who do not understand the fullness of Truth in all its various phases will try to keep others from understanding. We are to live and allow everyone else the same privilege. A lady in Colorado had a vision about 4 a. m. She saw herself standing by the brink of a newly dug grave. It was dark, and raining quite hard. She could see distinct forms, and among them the form of an elderly man. He sat on the brink of the grave with one leg and one foot hanging down in the grave. She screamed and said, "Who is it?" A voice replied and said, "It is your father." She awakened. Not knowing the Truth of how to work spiritually so as to clother her father in the consciousness of Good, wherein no evil could enter and no plague could come nigh his body, she allowed the vision to remain in her mind as it was given her. That afternoon she received a telegram stating that her father had just suffered a stroke of paralysis on one side of the body. She had received a warning in the vision. If she had but known the Truth of Jesus Christ she could have started prayers and spiritual work for her father, and thus saved him the false condition.

32. On October 30, 1918, the writer, a dough-boy at that time, had an observation post in the front trenches with the 354th Infantry, 89th Division, on the Argonne-Meuse front. The American Artillery were given orders to shell all of "No Man's Land" on that front as a preparation for the big drive of November 1st. The artillery figured a thousand yards short; and the shells, instead of going out in front of the front line trenches of the German lines, came right into the American front lines. The shells were flying to all sides of the writer, killing and wounding many of the soldiers in the trenches; apparently, the writer was facing sure death. He held fast to the Truth of Jesus Christ, but his thoughts rapidly flew to his dear mother and sister. No one but him who stood there at that moment knew what a terrible scene it was—trees all shattered to pieces—bodies hurled up in the air—the screams of the wounded. After the war was over and the boys had returned to their respective homes, his mother and sister related how on the early morning of October 30, 1918, they both had a vision. They heard the screams of their "soldier-boy," and instantly began praying the True Way of praying as taught by Jesus Christ, (which method the writer will put into a booklet called, "The Value of True Prayer, and How to Pray"). There is a difference in time between the two places, but as nearly as we could figure it out, the writer's danger and the mother's and sister's visions were simultaneous. The writer declared, after reaching home, it was a miracle that he was saved that morning. Ninety-two days under shell fire and received not even a scratch. After his people had related their vision, then he understood why he was so wonderfully protected. Why should his loved ones have had that vision? It was a warning for them to pray, so that "no evil could befall him and no plague come nigh his dwelling." Many people have had visions, and later found out that the visions came out just the way vision was given them. If they had only known that the premonition was given to them so that they could pray and save the one in question, many would have been saved from death.

33. The hereafter is very much the same as the here. We will have flowers, homes and occupations, much the same as we do here. Heaven, according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, is within the soul of man. It is a state of consciousness, which man is to uncover and live in; so that he will find heaven wherever he goes. Heaven is likened unto a piece of leaven, which leavens the lump. When you have the leaven or the ruling power of the All Good in your own hands, you will cause heaven to appear wherever you go. Heaven is within man and not outside of him. Man carries his heaven with him, but false theology has made him believe otherwise. Heaven is not a realm of three dimensions, like the here and the hereafter. Heaven is the realm of the fourth dimension, the inner world of Pure Spirit, Love, order and Harmony. The hereafter is still an outer world. Those who are living in the hereafter, can, if they but will, turn within their own soul and find Heaven there and manifest it outwardly. Man's soul is the Garden of Eden in which the Lord Jesus Christ lives, moves and has His Being. One student, looking into his mother's eyes as she was passing out, saw Jesus Christ. The eyes are the windows of the soul, and when our eyes are single, clear and pure, we will be able to look into the soul of man. Seeing into the soul of man we shall see the ONE—JESUS CHRIST. Living in the sense world, man loses the sweet communion and companionship with Jesus Christ. The writer, in order to make it clear to his students, teaches that heaven is the within of the within. It is not within the body, but within the within of the body.

34. To all appearances outwardly, the psychical body, the body in which one lives in the hereafter, is very similar to the one he had while on earth. Many try to pinch it to see if it is real; but they find that it does not have the same sensation as the earth body had; hence the reason why so many sensualists remain earth-bound, being in bondage to the senses. The flesh is the realm of sensation. Drunkards, and those whose only thought was sense-gratification, cannot find liquor and sexual pleasures in the hereafter; so they remain earth-bound, close to the realm of the flesh, trying to get their satisfaction through possessing or obsessing some negative or sensitive person. Many a young man has gone to the bar to get a drink. While there a drunkard from the hereafter side of life, tried to get into the man to overthrow his will; and began causing the young man to consume more and more liquor, until he was "dead-drunk"; and then the usual phrase is, "When whiskey enters a man, man leaves." Liquor and sexual pleasures open the way for the psychic world to work in and through man. Man should learn to rise above those conditions of physical sensation. The cupid with a bow and arrow, we have learned, is a psychical entity, whose work is to bring about a sexual union oftentimes outside of the marriage vow, so that it can be born again on earth.

35. Most all of this devilish work is done at night. The night-time of the physical world is the day-time of the psychical world. When the demons of the psychic world overthrow a man's reason, this world calls him a "lunatic," which word is derived from lite word "moon" or "luna," which is one and the same. We find those who are obsessed with the demons of the psychic world doing things and saying things foreign to themselves when they are in their conscious senses. Much could be written upon this subject, but a hint to the wise is often quite sufficient. The Christian Fathers of old taught that the greatest prayer a man can pray is the name of Jesus Christ. "In my name shall ye cast out demons." The name of Jesus Christ is fire to the demons of the physical world. Clothe yourself safely with the Spirit of the name of Jesus Christ and you shall always be protected. "Only those who bear the mark of Jesus Christ can come near Me."

36. A soul that passes out with murder in his heart and is not permitted to carry out his plans before death, will remain earth-bound; and if that soul does not listen to the Jesus Christ Teachers on the invisible plane and cast out murder from his heart and fill it with the Holy Love of God, but makes up his mind he is going to do it anyway, he will remain earth-bound, and try to use someone else through which to commit his crime. It is anger, jealousy and hatred that open the way for such an entity to get into the consciousness of the man in the flesh. Jesus said, "It has been said to you by them of old, thou shalt not kill; but I say unto you, that he that is angry with his brother is in danger of the hell fire." Man must live in the Love Truth of Jesus Christ and put away from himself that which does not belong to the great Truth of Being. Be positive to all error and "Keep the telephone of your mind forever transmitting thoughts of Love, Purity, Joy, Peace and Truth: then when lust, hate, and error try to call you up, they will always get the busy signal; after a while, they will forget your number."

37. The psychical or etherial body, being of a higher vibration than the flesh or material body, permits those in the hereafter to move about more freely. Blood being an earthly thing, is quite unknown in the hereafter; therefore, they never see anyone bleed there. Much could be written about the soldier boys who passed on while on the battlefield, and of their experiences in the hereafter. The writer may write a booklet upon that subject later on, if inspiration so directs.

38. The good which one does on earth helps him along in the hereafter. No good, which is done from the true basis, is ever lost. Jesus tells the story about Lazarus and the rich man. It is true. Lazarus, one who was very poor in this world's goods, yet rich in

spirituality, was always doing good, not for notoriety, but because it was His Will. Lazarus never missed an opportunity to let his light shine. Lazarus did not realize the close relationship between righteousness and riches. He took much consolation in the old religious idea that piety and poverty go hand in hand. The old belief was that a righteous man never could become rich, yet we find abundant testimony in the Holy Bible to prove that, "The association between righteousness and riches is so close that where we find a lack of riches, or a lack of prosperity, or a lack of comfort, we should seek the cause." Man is a law unto himself. Many have established themsleves in the law that one cannot be spiritual and prosperous at the same time; yet one can be, if he but understands the Truth. Lazarus was hungry; he begged help of a rich man; but the rich man refused him. The rich man did not know that every form of good one does is a seed sown in the great garden of life. Jesus tells us that in the hereafter Lazarus took the position of wealth, due to the good he did on earth; and the rich man, whose richness was material—which richness he could not take with him—was found to be very poor. When one has a principled prosperity they can apply the principle on any plane of consciousness.

39. A saintly soul, now listed among the "living dead," once told the writer a most helpful story which a student of hers had related, it being a Vision about the hereafter. Mrs. M—— seemed to be absent from the physical sense and touch of things and present in the psychical realm, otherwise known as the hereafter. She told of how she was met by a guide, who showed her about the certain plane in the hereafter in which she was to live; explaining many interesting facts to her about the "happy hunting grounds" as the Indians believed it to be, burying all the chief's possessions with him; as they believed he would use them in the hereafter. The guide showed her a beautiful dwelling-place, and told her it was the home her housekeeper was building. He then pointed across the street to the one her butler was building. She asked him what he meant by saying, "That home is being built for your housekeeper, and the other one for your butler." The guide said, "Friend, all the unselfish good which you do on earth, letting not your right hand know what your left hand is doing, renders the substance by which these homes are built. Your housekeeper is indeed a Christian. Though at times you are terribly mean to her, feeling yourself superior, yet in turn she is most gracious to you. She is fulfilling the Law, because she is letting the Love of Jesus Christ shine in and through her. She does much good in the world. Were you to follow her on her day off you would find what a wonderful soul she is and see the wonderful good she is doing. Your butler also does much good. They themselves furnished the good thoughts, words and deeds by which these beautiful palaces were built. These homes are not built by hands, but by true thoughts, words, and loving and unselfish deeds."

40. The lady then asked the guide to direct her to her "home on high." She said, "Surely I must have a wonderful mansion compared with that of my housekeeper and butler." The guide took her out on a desert place—the mode of travel in the hereafter is swift. To think, is to be there. "This, my friend, is your place," (pointing to a roughly built shack on a desert piece of ground). The lady screamed in horror. "You insulting brute! Do you know to whom you are speaking? I am Mrs. ———. We are the 'pillars' of the ——— Church. We entertain the priest in our home and do everything that he tells us to do. We helped to build the church and we help to finance it. We largely support the priest. We help all the charities on earth." "STOP, my dear friend!" he replied. "All that you have ever done on earth was for the glory of self, and not the glory of God. You never helped those from whom you knew you would never receive any earth-glory. A string was tied to all your gifts. You have rejected and crucified the Blessed Lamb thousands of times; for inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of them, you have done it unto Him; He is the hidden man in the heart and soul of every person you meet and speak to. Your life has been that of a hypocrite. You have never furnished the substance for a home to be built for you. Your good never reached higher than self. Good, like water, rises no higher than its source. Your good never had its foundation or source in the Love of God and the Truth of Jesus Christ. The cup of cold water which you gave was never given in His Name or Character. This shack is all that you have inherited. Meekness and lowliness is the key to Divine Inheritance. You entered the earth without any material wealth. You thought that the accumulation of wealth was everything. You forgot to lay up treasures in heaven. Your wealth never came through the Law of Prosperity. All the wealth which you have is that which you have derived from the labor of others. You stole your wealth from the poor. Your wealth is founded upon the poverty of others."

41. She begged to know what she might do to be saved. "Return to earth, worship God in the Spirit of Divine Love toward everybody and everything, and let your life be the life of the Truth of Jesus Christ. Remember, God never builded churches for men and women to worship in. He built hearts through which they are to express Divine Love one toward another. Your heart is His Holy Temple and before the altar of pure thought you shall meet Him face to face. Every church on earth is man-made, having man as its foundation. You cannot show me one church on earth that Jesus Christ founded and established, for He founded and established no material church. His church is the Invisible Church and all the members of that church believe not in creeds but in Loving Service. Jesus told you, 'God is

Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.' In Spirit and in Truth there is but one church owned and operated by Jesus. Every church seems to be expressing anything else but Divine Love toward every other church. Each feels that the other is wrong. They are all wrong. The Church, to be the Bride of Jesus Christ, must heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons, preach the gospel freely without price, pew rentals, and give freely, knowing they will receive freely. The churches have too much commercialism in them. None of the churches have the Truth, for none live up to His teaching. 'By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one toward another.' By this shall all men know that this is the Church of Jesus Christ, because of its divine, unselfish love and brotherly attitude toward every other church—every other believer. The Church of Jesus Christ is the Church of Divine Love, which the Samaritan expressed.

42. "The Lord built your heart; it is His Temple, where you may worship Him every moment of the day by expressing His Love, Truth and Glory toward all. The churches on earth must be redeemed. They are not feeding the lambs of His fold. Their worship of masses, burnt-offerings, sacrifices, rituals, ceremonies, are all an abomination to God. Jesus Christ never founded a church, as they seem to claim He did. The Church of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of Jesus Christ, which eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man. Man is the Temple of the Living God, and the Spirit of Jesus Christ dwells therein. Within the soul of man is the glory and bliss of the True Church. Jesus taught man to worship in the True Temple not made by hands and builded by the material realm. God is Spirit and He must be worshipped in the Church of the Spirit of Jesus Christ and not in the material stone and wood church of man. Go, my soul, and preach the True Gospel of Jesus Christ; heal the sick, as Jesus commanded every Christian to do. Take no thought what you shall say; the Truth will be given you to speak; for you are now His humble servant, His mouthpiece, through which Jesus Christ shall again work on earth, healing the sick, preaching the true gospel, casting out demons, raising the dead and cleansing the impure minds and bodies of men. The Angel of His Presence and Power fills you and surrounds you, working in and through you, for and by you, to do His Will. The more selfless you become the more you will be filled with the Spirit of Jesus Christ." The lady returned to earth and did mighty works in His Name.

43. Many times before passing, the loved friends and relatives of the one who is about to pass on, who are in the invisible world, will gather around the bedside, waiting to welcome the soul into the hereafter. The writer, praying at the bedside of an elderly lady, saw her husband who had passed on just six years that day. He was waiting to take his wife to their home in the invisible. Those who are about to pass often see a great Light, which Light, if they but hold fast to, will mark the corpse with peace, light and grace. Many times this Light makes them return and take up their bodies. The writer and his sister were called to the bedside of one, whom the physicians claimed was passing out—her eyes having started to set and the nails began discoloring—they sat at the bedside, declaring the Truth and knowing that Jesus Christ was working in and through her soul and He was adjusting all things. She returned to the body, which, while she was out of it, was made perfectly whole. She is well, strong, happy and wise today. She tells of how as she stood outside of her body, she saw her discarded body, but all seemed so dark round about her. She saw a Light in the far distance, and she started traveling toward the Light. The Light met her and returned her to her earth body. Just before passing you will often find them exclaim: "Oh! I am so happy. It is so wonderful. I want to go on. Isn't it beautiful?" Prior to passing, the "dying" one seeing his loved ones will often make peculiar expressions, such as, "I want to eat my supper with papa," (meaning her departed husband). "Grandma is here, I see her." "Oh! look at all the people who are here."

44. No one should hold his loved ones earth-bound by running to mediums, clairvoyants, ouija boards and other material, personal and psychical means, trying to get a message from him. If your loved one has a message for you he will get it to you. Some way will open for him. Those who have passed on can and do speak to us. Why shouldn't they, since there are no dead? The psychical voice, according to appearances, is much fainter and softer than that of the physical, yet it sounds much the same as the earthly voice. Many speak through the sub-conscious or psychic mind using the laws of mental telepathy. If one is receptive he can get the message. In the great realm of mind, there is no separation. They get our strong, concentrated thought, and we can get theirs. In the great ocean of mind, there is no place where our thoughts cannot go.

45. Many say, "If the living dead are able to communicate with the living, then why don't they do it?" Many times it is because of a lack of conscious power to make themselves felt and heard. Many lack the understanding of just how to go about it. Many are ignorant about such matters, being of the doubting Thomas class. Many try, but the skepticism of their loved ones in the flesh shuts them out. Many cannot get near their loved ones on earth, because of the thought walls of error and materialism. The writer believes in independent communication. He does not care for dependent communication; one never can be quite sure of it. There are those in the hereafter who do not know very much about the state of affairs existing on that plane, because of their narrow-mindedness. Seek the True Spirit of Jesus

Christ within yourself; and you will have found the Omniscient, All Knowing Mind, from which all wisdom, truth and science emanates.

46. The Truth is, that we are all in eternity now. There is but One World, God's world; and in Spirit and in Truth we are all living, moving and having our being in God's World; yet our senses still report a world of evil, matter and personality, with a here and a hereafter, filled with persons of various grades of intelligence. Heaven is all about us, yet the senses are not regenerated enough to see it. Wordsworth has declared that heaven lies all about us in our infancy. We are all in Eternity now, the city four square. There is no death, for all is Life. Nothing is gained through death. Never court it or pray for it. Why meditate upon death and desire it? Death is the wages of sin. Only sinners then want death, because they are after their wages. We get what we desire and meditate upon. Keep your mind steadfastly centered upon God and Jesus, the Universal and the Particular. You can live as long as you please—no time is set. One can lengthen and they can shorten their stay on earth, according to the way they think, live and act. Through sin and erroneous thinking, living and acting, one shuts off the life-supply. Establish the idea in your mind now that YOU SHALL NEVER DIE, but live and prove that God is Life. Eat of the Tree of Life, and do not relate yourself to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Everything has its birth in idea. Idea is the root or beginning of everything that manifests upon this material plane. You begin to live the life of eternity and youthfulness through establishing yourself in the Idea of Abundant Life and Eternal Youth, Oneness with God through Oneness with your Jesus Christ Self. Grow daily in the Master Consciousness. "Yet shall thy world grow polar to thee and crystal out a world like thy thought."

47. Every soul must be salted with the cleansing, purifying and regenerating fire of God's Holy Love. No one can ascend the mountain of super-consciousness of our Lord, save they have passed through that fire, tried and pure. We always gravitate to our place in life. In the Father's house are many mansions, that is, planes of consciousness. There are infinite worlds; and time and understanding will yet permit us to be able to communicate with them as well as visit them, the same as we communicate with and visit other continents.

48. Some day everyone shall know there is no death. We are all to meet again. All who have passed on are still alive and conscious. Death should be looked upon as a trip to another realm. Jesus demonstrated a higher method of leaving this world, that is through the Ascension which all are yet to demonstrate. The eyes must be incapable of tears in order to see beneath the veil, those who are in the hereafter.

49. It is the writer's sincere desire, that is, if you are interested in this subject, that you will read the booklet which he is now writing, which is a companion to this booklet, entitled, "Reincarnation, in the Light of Jesus Christ."

50. Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the great poetess, who is listed among the "Living Dead," was a personal friend of the writer's and they would sit for hours and discuss the subject of the hereafter, exchanging notes, and Mrs. Wilcox heartily agreed with his ideas. Her husband passed on in May, 1916. The following Prayer is what she used each day in order that she might be comforted:

> "This is my Rosary of Prayer, which I say at least six times a day, and when I am not uttering it, I am trying to live it. It seems to me to cover the whole spiritual ground, and I am knowing that Light will be shown me, and peace given me.
>
> PRAYER.
>
> "Dear Creative Spirit, Father, Mother, God of the Universe. I love you and with you place my problems. I know I am encircled by your Everlasting Arms. I know my beloved is in your care. All I ask of you is Light to see my way, and the consciousness of the Living Christ within me, and knowledge of the Indwelling God Presence. Great Spirit, hear my prayer."
>
> —ELLA WHEELER WILCOX. August, 1916.

51. The following are extracts from a few of the letters which the writer received from Ella Wheeler Wilcox: "I am going to come over early next week for noon lunch and see you all. It seems a long time since I left. I am slowly gaining in endurance. I am aware that in a large final sense it is time that 'all life is one and there is no separation.'" "Your very good letter came a long time ago, but as I had no very good report to make of myself, I did not write you. Now I write in great joy to tell you that the clouds have rolled away because I have received, for the last few weeks, wonderful and unmistakable messages from my Beloved. The proof is so overwhelming that nobody but an idiot (or the still existing stubborn type of orthodox Christian) could doubt it. These experiences did not come until I had my home entirely to myself again, my orthodox relatives having returned West again to remain. I know you will be greatly interested. The messages urge me to go to France this winter and I am making my plans to do so, if possible. Wishing you all happiness and success in your work, I am, sincerely your friend, Ella Wheeler Wilcox."

52. The writer shall be pleased to hear from all the readers of this booklet. If you have any helpful articles and data which would be helpful for an article like this, kindly send it. The writer shall be pleased to serve you in any way he possibly can. Round and about you, dear reader, are the Everlasting Arms. The Arm of the Lord is not shortened that it cannot help you. Trust in the guidance of the Indwelling Presence. The God of Love, the Grace of Jesus Christ and the Ministering Presence of the Holy Spirit is with you now and forever. I bless you.—EMIL CLIFFORD HARTMANN.

THE BAD HABIT OF DEATH

"A great scientist recently explained to us that death is only a bad habit. We die because we have inherited the idea that to die is a necessity of existence. From our earliest childhood we have death forced on our attention. Healthy, rosy-cheeked little children warble about death in the Sunday School. (They are taught about the death of Jesus Christ instead of being taught about His Glorification.)

"In our villages, youths and maidens linger by the gate of the churchyard and recite Love's old sweet story to each other. In our populous cities, many of the homes of the living look out upon the homes of the dead (bodies), and the burial grounds are used as pleasure gardens.

"In the busy thoroughfare, where all is seething life, the undertaker displays his wares and his price list. Marble monuments and half veiled urns with angels in attendance are to be seen in the shop windows of the most fashionable streets of our cities. The dead are borne through the streets in a manner especially arranged to attract public attention; and everyone who has lost a relative, publicly advertises his bereavement by wearing the trappings and suits of woe and grief.

"This has made death a familiar feature of everyday life. It is such a familiar feature that everyone has death always more or less in his mind. We dwell upon the idea of death, the idea takes possession of us, and because it is a depressing idea it gradually impairs our vitality and brings the body into conditions favourable to death.

"A lady of ninety, one day said to Fontennelle, who was then eighty-five, 'Death seems to have forgotten us.' 'Hush,' whispered the old man, putting his fingers to his lips. The eminent scientist asserts that if we could forget death, death would forget us."—The Referee.

"There is no death! What seems so is transition.
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call death."—Longfellow.

"When I go down to the grave, I can say like so many others: 'I have finished my day's work,' but I cannot say, 'I have finished my life's work.' My day's work will begin again the next morning. Death is but the changing of garments. The thirst for the Infinite proves infinity."—Victor Hugo.

"To me, the eternal existence of my soul is proved from my ideal of activity. If I incessantly work till my death, nature is bound to give me another form of existence, when the present can no longer sustain my soul."
—Goethe.

"Is it not strange, my friends, that after all I have said to convince you that I am going to the society of the happy, you still think that this body is Socrates? Bury my lifeless body where you please; but do not mourn over it as if it were Socrates."—Socrates.

"Man never dies. The soul inhabits this body for a time and leaves it. The soul is myself; the body is only my dwelling place; the soul departs, and the body merely falls to the earth."—Buddhist Scriptures.

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